

HIGHLIGHTS FROM HISTORIES  
OF  
KUNZ AND SCHMID ANCESTORS

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APPENDIX B



## P R E F A C E

My primary purpose in preparing this record has been to make available to my children and our cousins, information about their direct Kunz and Schmid ancestors. Recognizing that they may not have access to those records which have been available to me, I have recorded that information which has been of principal interest to me. Hopefully it will help them develop a greater love and appreciation for their ancestors and the great heritage left us by those early families who accepted the gospel in Switzerland and came to America in search of a better life among the Saints in the valleys of the West. The wisdom of that decision to come to America is clearly apparent by the growth and opportunities which have come to the numerous posterity of these families today.

Most of the information contained in this record has come from the following:

- 1) The brief histories of the early Kunz Families;
- 2) The L.D.S. Family Record of John Kunz III, now in possession of Uncle Parley Kunz;
- 3) Missionary Journals of John Kunz III; and
- 4) Schmid Family record prepared by Verona S. Hayes.

This record contains information about John Kunz I and his family. He and his daughter were the first to accept of the gospel among our ancestors. John Kunz II and his family were the first to come to America where they settled in Ovid, Idaho and then established the community of Bern, Idaho. John Kunz III and his wife, Magdalena Straubhaar, came to America a few years later and settled in Bern, Idaho. Karl August Schmid and his wife, Anna Landert, came to America and settled in Paris, Idaho and later in Slug Creek, Idaho. These are the early Kunz and Schmid families on my direct line and are those on which this record is based.

No attempt has been made to include information about the many other Kunz families who descended from John Kunz II.

My hope is that our descendants might from this record obtain a greater insight into the lives of their ancestors which will help strengthen their resolve to live worthy of the great heritage they have received from these humble and faithful grandparents.

Foster M. Kunz  
Potomac, Maryland  
July, 1980



## INTRODUCTION

It was because of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that our ancestors came to America. They accepted the gospel in their native land of Switzerland and emigrated to this land to be among the Saints in the valleys of the Rocky Mountains. Their descendants have prospered and grown in numbers. Today the number of descendants from the original Kunz family which came to America total about 8000.

The Kunz family with its descendants is the largest family of Swiss descent in the Church today, and it is reported to be among the 100 largest families in the Church.

The first family to come to America was that of John Kunz II, son of John Kunz I who was the first member of the family to join the Church. John Kunz II, his wife and ten children came to America in the early 1870's. Hundreds of his descendants have served the Church as missionaries in carrying the gospel to all areas of the world where missionaries are accepted or permitted to go. Hundreds of others, if not thousands, have served responsibly in a variety of Church positions ranging from the least to that of regional representative of the Twelve, patriarch, stake president, mission president, bishop, relief society president and other positions. We who are members of this large family can take just pride in the contributions it has made to the growth of the Kingdom of God on earth.

Today, descendants of this family live in all areas of this land and many foreign nations. Many occupy positions of trust and responsibility in business, government, education, agriculture, politics, the various professions and in all fields of labor. They are good citizens who contribute their time and efforts to the growth and solidarity of our nation and our communities. They have in large measure carried out the counsel given to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, to multiply and replenish the earth. They have contributed much to the growth and development of the wards and stakes of Zion wherever their lots have been cast.

How then did this all begin? Since the gospel was the motivating force behind their move to America and since the family have, for the most part, lived by its tenants and principles, it will be of interest to know first how the gospel came to their native land and the means whereby it was brought to this humble family living in the high mountain area of Switzerland, an area in which they had lived for many centuries and from which they seldom traveled more than a few miles.

The following is a brief account of how the gospel was introduced to Switzerland. It was prepared by Elder Paul A. Nielson, great great grandson of John Kunz I who was the first member of the family to join the Church.



In late October 1849, Apostle Lorenzo Snow was called on a mission to Italy by President Brigham Young. Elder Snow and his companion went first to England where he called Thomas Brown Holmes Stenhouse and another new convert to accompany him on this mission. In late November, 1850 he sent Elder Stenhouse to Switzerland. Elder Snow visited Stenhouse in Geneva in February, 1851 and was much pleased with the prospect of establishing the gospel in the peace loving Swiss city of Geneva. Missionaries were assigned to Switzerland and began their work in Basel.

Peter Brawand who had accepted the gospel in Denmark returned to his home in Interlaken. He taught the gospel to a number of people, but "since he did not have the authority to baptize," Jacob Foutz Secrist, a missionary laboring in Europe since 1852, was sent to the Bernese Oberland in May 1854 to perform baptisms of converts. Secrist remained in Thun and continued to labor diligently. On June 20, 1854, he wrote his wife that he had baptized 20 people with "good prospect ahead although the priests are crying false teachers." Several remarkable healings had been performed and had established the Church more firmly.

Efforts were made by local pastors to discourage acceptance of the gospel by the people, and Secrist was deported by the police of Canton Bern.

When Daniel Tyler who was then serving as mission president in Geneva received this report, he went to Maurachern, near Kiesen, where other Church members lived, and set apart Ulrich Buhler, a tobacco merchant in Gunten, as the local presiding elder.

After Secrist was deported, he wrote to President Tyler who responded on December 10, 1854 from Geneva, telling him that he had received a letter from Brother Buhler, the tobacconist, and that all were in good spirits and expressing confidence that the gospel would grow and bear fruit in spite of all opposition.

The Church continued to grow in the Bernese region, and throughout Switzerland. By the end of the 19th century, nearly 3000 Swiss Mormons had emigrated to the United States.

#### Ancestral Home of the Kunz Families

Our Kunz ancestors, as far back as we have record, lived in the Diemtigen area of the Canton of Bern, Switzerland. Here Beat Kunz married Fronegg Hiltbrand on October 16, 1575. Their children, Anna and Johannes were christened at Diemtigen, Canton of Bern on March 10, 1577 and May 3, 1579 respectively.

All of their descendents down to John Kunz I lived in this general area.

Diemtigen is a political and ecclesiastical community covering the Diemtigen Valley or the Diemtig Canyon within the Canton of Bern. It is divided into seven areas among which are the villages of Oey, Zwischenflueh, Riedern, Schwenden, and Niederstoken. The entire Diemtigen area is only one valley in the vast Bernese Oberland. Oey is a typical Swiss village nestled in the lower portion of the valley. At this point, the Filderich, a low rushing river, flows down from the Diemtigal fed from countless high mountain streams.

The valley varies in width from a few hundred yards to a few miles with smaller valleys going off in either direction from the main valley. Today the road winds around hills and mountains following the river with the valley opening up at intervals as one climbs higher into the mountains. High mountains rise on both sides, some covered with dense tall pines, others appear to be solid rock. Most are steep and rise to impressive heights.



In the distance, the tall rugged Alps covered with snow are clearly visible. Every ravine carries a rushing stream of cold water tumbling down steep slopes and over shining rocks.

After leaving the Filderichbach, the road follows the Kirelbach, a rather large stream one or two feet in depth and eight or ten feet in width. Zwischenflueh has a post office and school house today and a number of small homes in the valley. From Zwischenflueh the road follows along the side of the mountain with steep drop-offs to the side. About one and a half miles above Zwischenflueh are the old Kunz homes "im Boden." Here nestled in a narrow valley high in the mountains is a relatively flat saddle-like area between two mountains where the Kunz families built their homes and lived.



THE FAMILY OF JOHN KUNZ I AND ROSINA KATHARINA KLOSSNER

John Kunz I was born September 16, 1803 in Zwischenflueh, Canton of Bern, Switzerland. He married Rosina Katharina Klossner on February 9, 1821. They were the parents of five children:

John Kunz II	born January 20, 1823
Christian	born January 20, 1826
Magdalena	born January 10, 1833
Rosina (twin)	born November 25, 1836
Katharina (twin)	born November 25, 1836

John Kunz I was a good student of the Bible and a spirit of love was manifest in his home. Christian Kunz, his grandson, as a small boy stayed often with his grandfather. He described him as a God-fearing man, a peaceable, splendid neighbor who was clean and particular in what he did. He raised stock and did butchering for his neighbors and friends. Christian as a small boy followed him from place to place while finishing his evening chores. At the end of the day, John Kunz I would raise his cap from his head and would praise the Lord giving thanks in these words: "Be Hutti Gott Alles."

The following information was recorded by another of his grandsons, John Kunz III, and is found in his L.D.S. Family Record Book now in the possession of Parley P. Kunz:

"John Kunz I and Rosina, his daughter, were the first two people within a radius of 50 miles who embraced the gospel in this Latter-Day Dispensation, being baptized in 1862. They were instrumental in spreading the gospel message. A large branch of the Church, about half of which were his descendents and close blood relatives as well as a number of other neighbors, was organized.

"Although two of his children, his son Christian and daughter Magdalena, never embraced the gospel nor any of their families, his oldest son and family as well as his youngest two daughters, a pair of twin girls not yet married, bid him goodbye to go to the land of Zion, nearly one year previous to his death, for which event he was very thankful to his God for seeing the deliverance from Babylon of such a large number all at once - there being in the company who emigrated about fifteen of his nearest blood relatives. They left in the beginning of July 1870."

Christian and Magdalena were the only children of John Kunz I who remained in Switzerland. They and their families did not accept the gospel. John Kunz I and his daughter, Rosina, were baptized June 22, 1862 as related hereafter.

John Kunz III recorded in his Missionary Journal that his Grandfather (John Kunz I) was ordained a Priest on March 21, 1868 by Elder Willard B. Richards. (The L.D.S. Family Record Book of John Kunz III shows his date of ordination as a Priest to be August 21, 1868.) He was ordained an Elder by Elder Karl G. Maeser on November 11, 1868. He was appointed Presiding Elder of the Branch in his area and served in this capacity until his death on February 17, 1871. John I died in his native Switzerland and was buried there.

Rosina Katharina Klossner Kunz

Rosina Klossner was born December 9, 1802 in Blatten, Zwischenflueh, Canton of Bern, Switzerland. She was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on November 14, 1868 by Elder Karl G. Maeser and confirmed by Elder Maeser on the same day. Her Grandson, John Kunz III, gave the following description and comments about her in his Family Record Book referred to previously: Height 5' 7", weight 150 pounds, chest size 42, blue eyes, blond hair. He described her as a remarkably healthy woman, "a very good mother, wife and housekeeper."



Continuing, he wrote, "After leaving her native country in Switzerland, having become a widow about two years previous to her emigration, she left in the company of her eldest grandson (John Kunz III) and his family in June 1873, arriving at her daughter Rosina Morrell's home in Logan, Utah July 4, 1873, having stood the trip across from Europe to America as a seventy-one year old woman remarkably well. The remainder of her life of nearly ten years duration was spent in doing some temple work and in visiting her posterity.

"Passing away as she had lived the latter part of her life as a true Latter-day Saint in the full hope of a glorious resurrection."

She died on January 18, 1883 at the age of 81 in Logan, Utah and is buried in the Logan cemetery.

#### Acceptance of the Gospel by the Kunz Family

According to written and oral accounts of Robert Kunz, his great grandfather Jakob Kunz, "being an honest upright God-fearing man," entered into an agreement with his wife that whichever should die first, would return if possible, and let the other know whether the true gospel was then on the earth. Jakob and his wife had doubts about the teachings of the churches of the day since they did not harmonize with the teachings of the Savior as understood by them and as recorded in the Bible. At Jakob's death, which occurred on November 13, 1841, his wife sat by the side of his coffin and on the third day heard his voice telling her that the true gospel was then on the earth and their posterity would accept it.

Twenty-one years later, in 1862, his son, John Kunz I, and John's daughter Rosina, accepted the gospel and were baptized. Rosina had been suffering from a persistent spine or back ailment which doctors had not been able to cure. According to one account, her brother, John Kunz II, who was already high in the Alps making cheese, heard of a religion, the representatives of which had the power to heal through faith and administrations. He is reported to have written a letter to his father telling him of this Church. John Kunz I made contact with Elder Ulrich Buhler, who lived near Thunn. Elder Buhler was the Presiding Elder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in that area and was a native of Switzerland. Brother Buhler taught the gospel to John Kunz I and Rosina. He administered to Rosina for her health and promised that she would be made well. Rosina's ailment was healed, and on June 22, 1862 she and her father, John Kunz I were baptized members of the Church by Elder Ulrich Buhler.

That the gospel should be brought to these humble people living in the high valleys and mountains of the Bernese Oberland far removed from the nearest city, and that they should accept of it, is fulfillment, in part, of Isaiah's prophecy which said that the Lord would set up an ensign for the nations "and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel...from the four corners of the earth." (Isaiah 11:12). Furthermore, as Ezekiel proclaimed, "I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered....And I will give them one heart..and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh. That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God." (Ezekiel 11:17,19).

John II, upon hearing that his father and sister had joined the Mormon Church, about which there were many false rumors circulating in the area, is reported to have said that he wished the pen with which he had written his father had been in the bottom of the ocean. He continued to resist and oppose the Church, and on one occasion joined a mob of men from the area who went to his father's home intent on having the Mormon missionaries, who were there, driven out of the area. His father refused to let members of the mob into his home, and told them the only way they could reach the missionaries was over his dead body. Seeing his son among them, he told him in a firm voice that he should leave and go to his home without causing trouble.



Nearly a year later, Katharina Kunz, twin-sister of Rosina, was baptized by Elder Ulrich Buhler on June 12, 1863.

Years later in America, Ulrich Buhler's daughters, Elizabeth Rebecca and Caroline became plural wives of Christian Kunz, the son of John Kunz II.

In 1868, two missionaries, Elder Karl G. Maeser who was then President of the Swiss-Italian-German Mission and Elder Willard Brigham Richards visited the Kunz families in the Diemtigen area. They held meetings with some of them and taught them the gospel. Through the efforts and influence of Magdalena Straubhaar Kunz, who recognized the truthfulness of the gospel though she was not as yet baptized, and the efforts of Rosina and Katharina, John III was encouraged to attend a meeting conducted by Elders Maeser and Richards. John III later said that he went to the meeting filled with a spirit of opposition and that he smoked his long pipe so much during the meeting that the air was clouded with smoke.

After attending another meeting his attitude changed and he began to recognize the truth of the gospel. On November 15, 1868 he and his wife, Magdalena, and his grandmother, Rosina Katharina Klossner Kunz, were baptized by Elder Karl G. Maeser. They thus became the fourth, fifth, and sixth members of the Kunz family to join the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



THE FAMILY OF JOHN KUNZ II AND ROSINA KNUTTI

John Kunz II was born January 20, 1823, the oldest son of John Kunz I and Rosina Katharina Klossner Kunz. He was born in Diemtigen, Canton Bern, Switzerland. His wife, Rosina Knutti, was the daughter of David Knutti and Katharina Mani. Rosina was born in Schwendon, Canton of Bern on June 20, 1819. They were married on October 22, 1842 and are the parents of the following ten children.

John Kunz III	born February 7, 1844
Rosina Kunz	born October 20, 1845
Christian Kunz	born December 26, 1846
Rosina Katharina Kunz	born September 21, 1848
Samuel Kunz	born May 18, 1851
Johann Gottfried Kunz	born June 30, 1853
David Kunz	born October 30, 1855
Jacob Kunz	born August 5, 1859
William Kunz	born December 5, 1860
Robert Kunz	born December 16, 1862

Although John Kunz II had opposed the Church vigorously, he became convinced of its truthfulness after he and his wife were taught by Elders Karl G. Maeser and Willard B. Richards. Before he was baptized he told Elder Maeser that he was willing to join the Church on the condition that he and his family would not be required to leave their native land for America as others had done. Elder Maeser assured him that he need not leave his home unless he desired to do so.

John II and his wife, Rosina Knutti Kunz, were baptized by Elder Willard B. Richards on February 27, 1869, nearly seven years after his father and his sister, Rosina, had joined the Church.

Although he had not wanted to go to America before his baptism, the spirit of gathering came upon him shortly thereafter, and sixteen months later, early in July, 1870, he and eight of his children (all except his two oldest children, John Kunz III and Rosina Kunz Bischoff, both of whom were married) left Switzerland enroute to America.

John Kunz III recorded in his Missionary Journal that his father (John Kunz II) was ordained a Teacher in the Aaronic Priesthood on March 30, 1869 by Elder Karl G. Maeser and he was ordained an Elder on November 4, 1869 by Elder Maeser. It is therefore apparent that Elder Maeser had close association with the Kunz families in 1868, 1869 and until their arrival in Utah in 1870.

John II died February 16, 1890; his wife Rosina on February 4, 1894. Both are buried in Ovid, Idaho.

Rosina Knutti Kunz

John Kunz III's Family Record Book, contains the following information about Rosina Knutti Kunz:

"She was a very healthy robust girl and woman until about fifteen years after marriage when she had a premature birth from which she suffered for three months. At times she was so low that those waiting on her could come to no other conclusion but what death would be her only relief, but having implicit faith in the Lord hearing her prayers she was spared and enjoyed a fair degree of health again so much so that she gave birth to three healthy sons yet.



"Although somewhat delicate, she lived after recovery from the sickness for 37 years. During this time, she emigrated with her husband and eight children (leaving two of the children behind at the time) to the land of Zion and rejoicing very much in receiving herself with her husband their endowments and even having the privilege of going through one of the Temples of the Lord, having the satisfaction of seeing a very large posterity born into the world and growing up under favorable circumstances in the land of Zion, before her death. Finally the end came. She passed away in full faith of a glorious resurrection."

#### John II and Family's Trip to America

John II and his wife, Rosina Knutti, with their eight unmarried children ranging in age from seven to twenty-four, left their home in Switzerland about July 5, 1870. They were leaving behind them their two oldest children both of whom were married. John III, their oldest son, his wife Magdalena and their three small children were not able to come with the family. John III may have been filling a military assignment required of male citizens at that time, nor did he have sufficient funds to pay for his family's trip. Later, three of his brothers helped him with his transportation costs. Rosina Katharina was married to John Bischoff, Sr. who was not yet a member of the Church, and they were not able to come with her parents.

Robert Kunz, the youngest son of John II, said they walked from the black cherry tree at their home in Riedern single file with their father leading. A neighbor, driving a light rig carried their boxes and gave Robert and his mother a ride to Thun. From there they went to Bern, then to Basel. On July 6, 1870 they, with other emigrants, left Basel in two railroad cars. At Mannheim, they were met by Saints emigrating from Germany.

On July 7, their emigrant company, under the direction of President Karl G. Maeser who was being released from his position as President of the Swiss-German Mission, boarded the Steamer Victoria and proceeded down the Rhine to Cologne. In Dusseldorf they changed boats and continued to Rotterdam. On July 11, they arrived at Grimsby and left the same day for Liverpool. At Liverpool they embarked on the Manhattan, leaving there July 13, for New York City. There were approximately 245 members of the Church in this company.

On July 26, they arrived at Castle Garden, New York where the company was joined by about 30 more Saints from the State of Pennsylvania. They left Castle Gate in eight railroad cars, traveling through Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Omaha and into Salt Lake City on August 5, 1870.

At Farmington, the First Presidency, Presidents Brigham Young, George A. Smith and Daniel H. Wells boarded the train and greeted the Saints shaking hands with all of them.

The Kunz family had no friends or relatives with whom to stay in Salt Lake City. President Brigham Young called them to settle in Bear Lake, Idaho and to commence a cheese making business there. Two teams and drivers provided by the Church met them in Ogden and drove them to Providence, where the family decided to stay for the winter. They obtained a home in Logan, a one room log house near the railroad depot. Here they spent a difficult winter. They had insufficient food and suffered through severe illnesses. That Fall, however, the older boys went to Ovid and with the help of local brethren, cut logs for the house the family would build when they arrived. The following year, in the Spring of 1871, Bishop William D. Budge who was living in Providence, took them with two teams and two or three cows to Bear Lake via Grace, Soda Springs and Bennington. Bishop Budge, whose home was in Providence, Utah had been called by Brigham Young in 1870 to become Presiding Bishop of Rich County in Utah. He, however, had settled in Paris, Idaho.



John Kunz II settled in Ovid, Idaho and began making cheese. He made the first cheese in Bear Lake Valley using a large boiler borrowed from someone in the area. In 1874, he built a dairy and made cheese on a continuing basis thereafter.

In 1875, he and his sons on the advice of Bishop Edlefson, moved north three miles and settled in what they called the Bern district. This was done to provide more grazing area for their stock. John Kunz II purchased all property in Bern bounded on the north by the Sand Hill Lane from Bishop Edlefson who held "squatter's rights" on it. Property on the north end of Bern was purchased by Christian Kunz from William L. Rich who was representing Charles C. Rich.

A home was built by John Kunz II in the center of the community, near the small stream which flows through the town. This became the old family home. This is the home in which Robert Kunz, and later Delmar Kunz, resided. The "upper rooms" of this home were added later. Originally they were separate buildings, connected by an outside porch. Another log home was built north of the old home. It was called the "Blue House". Sometime after 1897, it was moved to the south side of Bern and became part of the John Kunz, Jr. home.

A dairy was erected a short distance north-east of the home on the north side of the creek. Later a drying room for the storage and curing of cheese was erected south of the creek. John Kunz III had brought two large copper boilers from Switzerland when he came in 1873. One of these was used by John II and his sons, David, Will and Robert to make cheese. The other was for the use of Samuel and Christian.

John Kunz II was subsequently appointed Presiding Elder over the Bern district. He continued in that capacity until he died in February, 1890.



JOHN KUNZ III AND MAGDALENA STRAUBHAAR

John Kunz III was born on February 7, 1844 in Zwischenflueh, Diemtigen, Canton of Bern, Switzerland. He married Magdalena Straubhaar, born March 8, 1837, who was the daughter of Peter Straubhaar and Johanna Eggen of Niederstoken. They became the parents of five children, two of whom, Johann Jacob and Magdalena Matilda, died as infants. Their children are as follows:

William John Kunz	born March 14, 1865
Johann Jacob Kunz	born April 17, 1866
Rosina Katharina Kunz	born May 16, 1867
John William Kunz	born July 14, 1869
Magdalena Matilda Kunz	born October 11, 1871

In his "Journal of My Mission", John III wrote as follows: "I am a son of respectable and God fearing parents and they have taught me to serve the Lord, our God, from my early childhood on, and my mother taught me to pray to God, which I shall never in my life forget.... I was taught to work with my hands to sustain life. I learned the trade of a cheesemaker, and as being the oldest child of ten, I was looked upon by my dearly beloved parents as a great help to them."

Continuing in this record he states that the first of his children who was not baptized as an infant was John William Kunz, because on the 15th of November 1868, he and his wife had been baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints by Elder Karl G. Maeser who was then President of the Swiss-Italian-German Mission. On February 26, 1869, John III was ordained a Priest by Elder Willard B. Richards and on the 28th of March, 1869 he was ordained an Elder by Elder Karl G. Maeser.

Concerning the baptism of John Kunz III, his wife Magdalena Straubhaar and his grandmother, Elder Paul A. Nielson, his grandson, wrote the following on November 12, 1969:

"On November 15, 1868, Elder Karl G. Maeser baptized and confirmed John Kunz III, Magdalena Straubhaar Kunz, and Rosina Katharina Klossner Kunz (wife of John Kunz I) as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This important event transpired in the stream called "Grundbach," which runs through that part of the hamlet of Zwischenflueh (Diemtigen Parish) known as Schwand.

"As we reflect upon this sacred occasion, let us remember the sacrifices made by these noble forebearers. They listened to the gospel message and embraced it, thereby bringing upon themselves much persecution from relatives and friends; they followed the spirit of gathering and left their beautiful native land to come to a foreign country and start a new life among strangers, thereby giving us a portion of our American heritage; they kept the commandments of God and made the gospel a part of their daily lives, thereby laying a foundation on which we may build our faith and increase our devotion."

Magdalena Straubhaar

Little is known today about the life of Magdalena Straubhaar. She was born March 8, 1837 in Niederstoken, Canton of Bern and was the third child of her parents, Peter Straubhaar and Johanna Eggen. Her father passed away and was buried in Switzerland, but her mother, Johanna Eggen Straubhaar, came to America and died November 25, 1875. She is buried in the Ovid, Idaho cemetery. Bern Ward records show that Magdalena, her brother Jacob and three sisters, Rosa, Mary and Elizabeth were all re-baptized on July 1, 1883 by Christian Kunz and confirmed by John Kunz, Jr. (John Kunz III). All were born in Niederstoken, Switzerland and joined the church before coming to America, presumably records of their previous baptisms were lost or not available in America.



The following excerpt from the L.D.S. Family Record Book of John Kunz III is a statement by Magdalena Straubhaar, probably dictated by John III in her behalf.

"On March 14, 1865, I became the mother of my first child, a nice bright baby boy who soon became the ideal of every member of my father and mother's family. In 1866, my husband and I commenced to keep house together, having each lived more or less with our parents until that time.

"On April 17, 1866, my second son was born. In May 1867 my first daughter, Rosina, was born. My second son, Jacob, being a corpse in the house at the time.

"In 1867 I contracted fever through my father's family. Being a very sick woman almost unto death for over three months and my health being ruined through it for the rest of my days here on earth. The year following, in 1868, the gospel found my husband and myself and my husband's grandmother being baptized together. My husband claiming that I had been instrumental in bringing indirectly his conversion about as well as that of his grandmother.

"In the year 1869, on July 14, another son was born unto me who was a very sickly child and if it would not have been for the faith and prayers of his parents and Elders no doubt would have passed away. But having great promises made to him through the Elders, great things were promised unto him for this life's journey, and he grew up to be a healthy boy.

"On the 11th of October 1871, another daughter was born who lived just one month. All these children were sealed to their parents in the Logan Temple on 19th of October, 1887 by M. W. Merrill.

"On May 22, 1874, at about 1:30 p.m., the Lord made manifest his power through two of his servants of the Quorum of the Twelve, Wilford Woodruff and Charles C. Rich to this, my wife, who was apparently in a condition with no prospect of release from her pains and sickness, but these brethren administering to her were scarcely through with their work when a great change took place and according to the promises made to her, she was a corpse by 6:00 p.m. that night."

This record contains the following description and additional information about Magdalena:

"Height 5' 1", weight 100 pounds, chest 36", eyes hazel brown and hair brown."

She died of dropsy at Ovid, Idaho, 22 May 1874.

Magdalena was a woman of great spirituality. This is suggested by her conviction of the truthfulness of the gospel prior to that of her husband, also because it was through her and his sisters that her husband was persuaded to investigate and seriously consider the teachings of Elder Maeser and Elder Richards. She was a faithful member of the Church. She had many talents, one of which was a beautiful singing voice. She was loved by her family and was kind and considerate of them. She was a small woman as seen from the above description, somewhat like her sister Sophia. Her three children who lived to maturity were also small in stature.

Less than one year after arriving in America, she became seriously ill with dropsy. As her husband indicates in his journal, when they arrived in America, he was "without means and his wife had ruined health."



Robert Kunz, the youngest brother of her husband, who was then 12 years of age, recalled the time of her death and remembered having been sent from her home in Ovid to get her husband from a meeting which he was attending. Magdalena was administered to by Elders Wilford Woodruff and Charles C. Rich who promised her that the door would be open for her to inherit the celestial kingdom. Following the administration she raised herself in bed and said that she was prepared to go. She bid goodbye to her children and asked her husband to be kind to them. She passed away in peace.

Stricken with grief over the loss of his wife and being left with three small children and no one to care for them, John III, five months later, married Magdalena's sister, Sophia Straubhaar, who was seven years younger than Magdalena. Sophia had no children of her own, and she cared for these three children left by Magdalena as if they were her own. John William ("Johnny") who was just five years old when his mother died, said later in life, that no mother could have been better to her children than Sophia was to them. This is a great tribute to this young woman who continued to care for this family throughout her life and during the time that her husband filled a two year mission to his native land of Switzerland.

Sophia lived until October 25, 1893 when she died at the relatively young age of 47. She is also buried in the Ovid Cemetery.

#### Their Journey to a New Homeland

On July 2, 1873 John III, Magdalena, their three children (William J., Johnny and Rose) and his grandmother, Rosina Klossner Kunz, then 71 years of age, came to America. Of their trip, William J. who was only eight years of age related the following:

"The family crossed the ocean on the "Nevada". When they passed Ireland, several little boats came out to sell gooseberries. His father bought some, and he and William went on the brow of the ship to eat them. A sailor told them to hurry down below. At that moment a large wave swept over the ship, and would likely have swept them off had they not gone below. The water in the hallway was up to William's knees."

From New York City, the family went by train to Ogden, Utah. The train was ferried across the Mississippi. From Ogden the family rode the Utah Northern Railway to Logan, where they stayed with John III's sister, Rosina K. Morrell, for two weeks until teams could come to get them. Tom Peterson hauled the heavy load which included the two large copper boilers brought by John III from Switzerland.

The L.D.S. Family Record Book of John Kunz III contains the following interesting statement written in his own words:

"Thankful to the Lord for preserving our lives up to our arrival in Zion. Being my Grandmother was a fellow passenger in my care in the seventy-first year of her life, and my wife with ruined health, and three small children, and rejoicing to meet Father, Mother, seven brothers, and one sister all well, we proceeded to start pioneer life. We built the first home in the Bern district, Bear Lake County, Idaho, which we used for a dwelling the following year, but my wife (Magdalena) leaving us through her death on May 22, 1874 brought an entire change into our family affairs. Having to leave my children in the care of relatives, and seeing that time would bring a barrier between my children and myself, I married my deceased wife's sister, Sophia (Straubhaar), to fill, at least in part, the place of a mother to my little children, which she very nobly did.



"From that day I married her, October 26, 1874 to the latter part of the year 1888, I married four more times which gave me six wives in all, four of which bore me twenty-five children. Thirteen (13) of them are alive today, February 26, 1916. I must state that they all, without any exception, are good faithful children. Having buried 12 children one of which left 8 children herself, and having also parted with three of my wives in their deaths, I must say all this brought me many a sorrowing hour, and caused many a tear to be shed.

"But other scenes of my life are causing different feelings in my heart. For instance, a two year mission to Switzerland and Germany, during which time I labored and presided over the Bern Conference for twenty months. Fifty-two persons were baptized into the Church in that period and the balance of the two years I spent in Germany laboring principally in Berlin, Hamberg, and Kiel. After being released, I enjoyed myself very much in a pleasant trip home as well as the building up and enjoying the confidence and good feeling of the people of the Bern Ward, over which I was called to preside and did preside for over 26 years, until failing health forced me to retire.

"Soon after my mission to Europe, I filled another one, being one of the workers of the Logan Temple for over two years to the full satisfaction of my File Leaders, enjoying many blessings and privileges and gifts of the Holy Ghost."

In his missionary journal, John III records that prior to leaving Switzerland, he had baptized and confirmed Sophia Straubhaar, his wife's sister, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on June 30, 1873. This was done in Niederstoken, Canton of Bern. Thereafter, she emigrated to America on June 2, 1874.

His journal also contains the following references to his wife and his marriage to Sophia:

"On the 22nd day of May, 1874 I had to see my dearly beloved wife, Magdalena, pass away from this earthly life, something that has up to this day surpassed anything of a trial to me. She had suffered a very painful disease being chronical dropsy, and she being my life's companion for ten years, had passed through hard times and sickness with me and had caused me to investigate the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Consequently, it seemed to rend my heart in twain, but as I had three small children, I again needed a mother to them and I had hundreds of times prayed to the Lord for that purpose, and on the 26th of October 1874, I was sealed to the sister of my deceased wife, Sophia, daughter of the same parents who was born on the 10th day of May 1846 in Niederstoken, Canton of Bern."

He notes also that in July 1881 he and his wife Sophia adopted a son, Ernest Joneli, who had been born on April 28, 1880 in the town of Erobern by Darstetten, Canton of Bern. He said this baby boy was in poor health, impoverished and ill at the time of their adoption of him.

Following his arrival in the mission field in 1884, he relates the feelings he had as he and his brother, David, walked from Thun to Niederstoken. He said he could hardly keep from crying on seeing the old place, "being the place of my first love, and the place of my last stopping where I baptized the last night I was there before emigrating to Zion, two persons, one of them being my so dearly beloved wife, Sophia." This brought many memories and reflections to his heart, he



said, and "no place affected me near as much...although when we ...came up to the place below Schwand, my heart beat quickly" as he reflected on the homes of the Kunz families. Here he and David bowed in the darkness and prayed that the Lord would bless them to be received well by their Uncle Christian Kunz, brother of John Kunz II. The Lord, he said, heard their prayers and they were treated very well by their relatives, although they showed no interest in joining the Church.

Between the date of his baptism and the time when he came to America, John III served as a local elder for the Church working under the direction of Church leaders in that area. His grandfather, John I, had been appointed presiding elder of the branch of the Church located in their home area. John I, however, passed away February 17, 1871, in his native country less than a year after John II had left for America.

The faithfulness and dedication of John III to his newly acquired religion is attested by the following letter written by President Edward Schoenfeld of the Swiss-German Mission from Bern, Switzerland under date of November 11, 1870. It is contained in the Swiss and German History Book 1868-1883:

Bern, November 11, 1870

President Horace S. Eldredge.

Dear Brother, although the war is raging all around us, and although west of us there is an empire falling, and south of us there is also a power falling that was worse than an empire, for it formerly held kings down to the ground and pretended to sway God's authority here upon the earth, and now its hour has come; yet here in neutral Switzerland, while all these events are transpiring around us, the work of the last days grows and blooms in peace and safety, protected by the good laws and institutions of the government for which the sons of Tell gave themselves. When I tell the saints to look around upon their neighboring countries and upon the destruction there going on, they begin to realize that in the time of such kingdoms God in heaven has set up a kingdom which shall stand forever.

The work is progressing nicely, we are adding new members to the Church frequently and striking new fields of labor occasionally. Two weeks ago, one of our Traveling Elders was up in the mountains of the "Bernese Oberland," where the "cracks and peaks" remind one that Israel has to be hunted out from amongst the rocks and caves. As he was preaching there, the unruly son of the landlord was trying hard to interrupt and to break up the meeting. Not four days, however, from the time the Elder left, I received a letter (in haste) stating that the same boy was sick, given up by the doctors, left without hope to recover, and he wished for baptism, as he repented of his sins. I could not have reached the place in less than two days travel, besides, I had other appointments out, therefore, I telegraphed to another Elder, who, instead of going the regular road (ten hours walk) took a mountain path (five hours) over the Alpine snowfields, where the chamois roam. There he had to travel through snow in places up to his arms. But he having at times been engaged in chamois hunting, and being acquainted with the dangerous paths in those regions, filled his engagement, reached the boy, took him to the creek, where high waters carried heavy rocks with a thunderlike roaring, baptized and confirmed him, and left him the next day, after bearing his testimony, restored to perfect health.



I saw the Elder a few days ago. He told me that gold could not have induced him to go that same road back, he preferred the ten hour walk, where, however, the high water, in consequence of recent heavy rains, had taken away the road in places, so that he had to wade several times knee deep in water. The name of that noble Elder is Johannes Kunz, a son of one of the same name who emigrated this year with his large family to the Valley.

My health is very good and I hope you, Sister Eldredge, and all the brethren in the Office enjoy the same good health.

The Saints in Bern send their best love to Sister Kohler. I add my best regards also.

May the God of Israel crown all your labors with the desired effect, is the earnest prayer of your brother in the Gospel.

EDWARD SCHOENFELD

(Mill. Star. 32:749)

#### Patriarchal Blessing

On March 4, 1880, Patriarch James M. Works gave the following Patriarchal Blessing to John Kunz III:

"Brother John, I lay my hands upon thy head at this time, to seal a Patriarchal Blessing upon thee that shall be a source of comfort and consolation unto thee both in time and eternity for thou art one of the noble spirits that was present in the Grand Council that was held in heaven when the Morning Stars sang together, and the Sons of God shouted for joy, and you volunteered at that time, to come upon the earth in this last dispensation and take upon thyself a body of flesh and blood and bones and nerves and sinews, in order to work out thy salvation and obtain for thyself a far more exceeding and eternal weight of Glory.

"And inasmuch as thou has left thy native country in order to obey a commandment that the Lord has given wherein he has commanded his Saints to gather out from Babylon, and flee to Zion, where they can be taught the laws and ordinances that pertain to life and salvation and be free from the calamities that are about to come upon the nations of the earth, if thou wilt listen to the counsel of those that God has called and set apart to bear rule in His Kingdom, thou shalt not lack for the necessities of and comforts of life, but be blest pertaining to thy labors in the Ministry even in thy own native country.

"Thou shalt be blessed in traveling both on the land and on the sea, and thou shalt become a Savior upon Mount Zion even a Savior unto many of thy friends and relatives that have died without a knowledge of the Truth, and thou shalt be blest in helping to build temples and in lengthening the cords and strengthening the Stakes of Zion.

"Thou shalt also be blest pertaining to thy earthly possessions pertaining to thy house and lands and thy flocks and herds and to thy posterity after thee.



"Thy lineage is of Joseph through the loins of Ephraim, and thou shalt have the Blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob sealed upon thy head through that lineage and shall enter in at the marriage supper of the Lamb and enjoy the presence of God and his holy angels with all redeemed and sanctified of Adam's race in the Redeemer's Kingdom.

"These blessings I seal upon thy head and seal thee up into eternal life upon conditions of thy faithfulness, in the name of Jesus, our Redeemer, even so, Amen.

John M. Works

#### Missionary Service in the Swiss-German Mission

On October 10, 1884, John Kunz III and David Kunz, his brother, were called on a mission to Switzerland and Germany. Neither had any money, but both had faith in their Father in Heaven. They worked diligently for a few days and left for Salt Lake City. On October 29, 1884 they left Salt Lake City by rail for New York City with John in charge of a group of the Elders. They boarded the steamship "Wyoming" and sailed November 4, 1884. They arrived in Liverpool, England where they met President John Henry Smith. From there they went to Bern, Switzerland. On December 21 and 22, 1884, a conference was held in Bern at which John was one of the speakers. A portion of the address given by John Kunz III during the closing session of the conference has been recorded in the Church publication for the Germanic members, Der Stern (Vol. 17, No. 3, 1 February 1885) and was included in Paul A. Nielson's letter referred to above.

"We have met here together at this conference where God has poured out His spirit in rich abundance upon us. It is necessary that we assemble from time to time to receive new strength and encouragement in the gospel. If we consider the small number of Saints in comparison to the large majority of mankind, we come to the conclusion that this gathering is very necessary, in order that we might receive the strength to swim against the mainstream of the world. I testify in the name of Jesus that God has again raised prophets to whom He has given power and authority to bind on earth, which bindings shall also stand in heaven.

"The world calls us fanatics, as though we were mere dreamers in our thoughts and in our faith. We desire to teach the world in order that they might see these things and learn of them. I would like to admonish you investigators to ask God for a testimony about His work, for it is impossible to receive a testimony of the truths but from Him. Everyone who has received such a witness should warn his neighbor. Let us not tire in this endeavor, and not weaken if we cannot emigrate as speedily as we would like to."

John III was released from his mission on October 24, 1886. On November 10, he arrived in New York City on his return home.

Most of his mission was served in Switzerland, much among the people of his home area. He labored diligently to have the gospel accepted by his Kunz and Straubhaar relatives. These efforts were, however, not successful.

In 1890, he was called to an equally important mission. On June 15 of that year, he was ordained Bishop of the Bern Ward by Elder John Taylor. He served in this capacity for 26 years as a highly respected leader in church and community affairs.



His family continued to grow in number as he married two more wives after his mission. Following are the names of his six wives with brief information about them and their families:

1. Magdalena Straubhaar, married 11 November 1864, bore five children: William J., Johann Jacob, Rosina Katharina, John William and Magdalena Matilda. Magdalena died 22 May 1874.
2. Sophia Straubhaar, married October 26, 1874 following the death of Magdalena. Sophia adopted one child and reared the three living children of Magdalena - William J., Rosina and John William. Sophia died October 25, 1893.
3. Magdalena Linder, married November 2, 1874, bore four children: Mary Magdalena, Catherine, Eliza Rosetta and Wilford John. Magdalena died February 6, 1920.
4. Louisa Weibel, married November 8, 1883, bore no children of her own, but reared the five living children of Elizabeth Boss who died May 13, 1900.
5. Margaret Lauener, married September 5, 1888, bore ten children: Charles Crockett, Lovina Hannah, Abel Chester, Heber Christian, Melvin, Milton Lyman, Jessie Amasa, George Sidney, Ursula Grace and Lula. Margaret died March 19, 1949.
6. Elizabeth Boss, married December 19, 1888, bore six children: Agnes Ruth, Julia Esther, Parley Peter, Hedwig Hazel, Lucy May and Lydia. Elizabeth died May 13, 1900.

John Kunz III completed his life's mission on earth and passed away on January 16, 1918. He was the father of twenty-five children and he stands today at the head of a large posterity.



#### KARL AUGUST SCHMID AND ANNA LANDERT

The following account was written by Verona Schmid Hayes for the Daughters of Utah Pioneers' History of Bear Lake Valley. It is based on information supplied by Robert Schmid and known to Verona through her parents, August and Julia Schmid.

Karl August Schmid was born 24 September 1837 at Berg am Irchel, Canton of Zurich, Switzerland, the son of Heinrich Schmid and Cleophea Eberhard. He married Anna Landert who was born 4 May 1843 at Rorbas, Canton of Zurich, Switzerland. While living in the town of Berg, missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints contacted the family who were then members of the Lutheran Church. After some period of study and listening to the gospel message as taught by the missionaries, Karl was converted and baptized on May 26, 1880 and his wife was baptized in June of the same year. They then moved to the city of Schaffhausen near the Rhine Falls where they lived for six years during which time they entertained the elders from Zion and served in various church capacities.

Karl August Schmid was a tailor by trade, and his wife, Anna, worked in the textile factories when her health permitted. The family desired to emigrate to America, but did not have the financial means to do so. Their family consisted of seven children: Charles (Karl), Anna, William who died as an infant, Mary, Robert, Emma and August.

After becoming members of the L.D.S. Church, the family assisted the missionaries and served as officers and teachers in their local branch of the church. Sometime later they decided they should send part of their family at a time to America. Two daughters, Annie age 16, and Mary age 10, left their home in company with the Houser and Wilker families on August 27, 1883 to emigrate to America. They came directly to Paris, Bear Lake County, Idaho where Mary lived and worked in the homes of John Norton and William N. B. Shepherd. Annie lived and worked at the home of William Rich and later at the home of David Kunz in Bern.

On May 11, 1884, the eldest son Charles (Karl) bade his family goodbye and accompanied the August Hoagi and Gene Ruger families to America. He was happy to be reunited with his sisters in Paris as they renewed their family ties and exchanged news about the family. Charles worked in and around Paris, Idaho and at Evanston, Wyoming.

On May 17, 1886, Karl August Schmid and his wife, Anna, and their three youngest children, Robert, Emma and August, left their home in Schaffhausen, Switzerland where they had lived for several years, to come to America. One can imagine the emotions they felt, knowing they were leaving brothers and sisters behind whom they would not see again. Great sacrifices had to be made, but their aim and desire were to have their family together in "Zion." They spent eleven days crossing the ocean on the Steamship Nevada. Many other families from Germany, Switzerland, England and Denmark were on the same ship.

The family arrived in Montpelier, Idaho on the 9th of June 1886, and were met at the train by Will Kunz and William J. Kunz who took them to Bern. They recalled that between Montpelier and Bern there was much high water which at times came into the wagon box as they drove through it. When they arrived in Bern, they were overjoyed to meet again their daughter Annie. Mary who was still in Paris soon joined her parents and brothers and sisters. They stayed at the David and Will Kunz homes for a week where they said they were treated royally. A week after their arrival in their new country, John Kunz II took them to Paris, Idaho where they made their home for the next thirteen years.

Shortly after arriving in Paris, Karl August Schmid bought a home from Walter Hodge for \$300. This home was located in the Second Ward two doors north of the Court House and near the location of the present



Forest Service Station. The family was happy in their new home. Father Karl began his tailoring trade, and through this met and made many friends. His son Charles, who had been working on ranches in Paris and Evanston, came home and helped the family get settled. In Paris, they met many former friends and associates whom they had known in their native Switzerland. There, their eighth child, Joseph, was born and died in infancy. They lived in Paris during the building of the Fielding Academy and the Bear Lake Stake Tabernacle.

On March 27, 1899, Karl August Schmid sold his home in Paris to Bishop Ed Crouch. They moved to Bern with the view of buying the "Dutch" Henry ranch on Slug Creek, seventeen miles north and east of Georgetown. They lived in Bern until details of the purchase of the ranch could be made. This move was made because of the desire of the father and mother to provide employment at home for their two younger sons, Robert and August. By this time, Charles had married Eliza Von Allmen and had started his own tailoring establishment in Montpelier which later became known as the Schmid Brothers Cleaners. Daughter Annie married William J. Kunz of Bern, and Mary married John Kunz, Jr., his brother. These two families participated in the cheese manufacturing business and spent their summers in Williamsburg, Idaho where they grazed cattle and made cheese.

In the fall of 1899, the ranch at Slug Creek was purchased, and the family moved to their new home. Robert, August and Emma were still living at home. Thus began their life of ranching. They grazed cattle and sheep, and the ranch provided the hay necessary for winter feed. This was a very new and different life for the family, especially for Karl and his wife Anna who in their earlier years had lived in cities in their native Switzerland.

For seventeen years, winter and summer, they remained at the ranch. Many cattle and sheep men found their home a convenient stop-over as they moved their sheep and cattle through the valley. Meals were provided for them and all visitors were made welcome in their home. During the winter months they were isolated because of the heavy snows and cold weather which made travel impossible. Mail and much needed supplies were brought in by men on snowshoes or horseback when the snow wasn't too deep. In the spring and fall their home was a convenient stop-over for their daughters Annie and Mary and their families as they moved to and from the Williamsburg dairies.

During the time they lived at the ranch, Emma married William J. Thornton who had worked at the ranch. They later moved to Georgetown where they made their home. August married Julia Esther Kunz, and lived at the ranch until it was sold. Karl August Schmid and his wife Anna found great joy in their family and in having them near in their later lives. A united loving family relationship always existed among their children and their grandchildren.

On July 4, 1911 Karl's wife Anna died, and on January 25, 1913 Karl August Schmid died at the ranch. Their bodies were taken to Georgetown for funeral services and burial since Georgetown was the ward to which the family belonged during their residence at the ranch.

It was from this ward that Robert left in April, 1914 for the Swiss-German mission. After Robert went on his mission, the family decided to sell the ranch. It was sold to P. G. Peterson of Garland, Utah. August and his family bought a home in Georgetown where they lived next door to his sister Emma. Shortly after Robert Schmid returned from his mission, he was called to serve as Bishop of the Bern Ward in which capacity he served from January 21, 1917 for thirteen years until July 13, 1930. While living in Bern, he married Conra Shumway and following her death he married Nellie Parker Porter. All sons and daughters of Karl August and Anna Landert Schmid resided in Bear Lake Valley until their deaths.





John Willam Kunz, Rose Kunz Eschler, William J. Kunz  
A Noble Family



George Kunz  
William J. Kunz  
(Brothers)



Bishop Robert Schmid & Nellie Parker Schmid  
Loved and respected by all